

"To Our Pride In the Past, and Our Hope for the Future, Let Us Add Vigorous Work in the Living Present."

R. M. WHITE & SON, Props. — L. M. WHITE, Editor.

MEXICO, AUDRAIN COUNTY, MISSOURI, THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1921

Vol. 63 No 22

GREEN PLANT
CLOSED FOR
SHORT TIME

The following interview from A. P. Green, of the A. P. Green Fire Brick Co. of this city, will be of interest to everyone and especially as it refutes the publication of a statement to the effect that his plant was being closed indefinitely. His interview follows:

Mexico, Mo., July 19, 1921.
To the Editor of the Ledger:

The very misleading news item and editorial in last evening's Intelligencer, evidently based on street rumors and no investigation, makes it necessary for us to break our habit of ignoring these items of village gossip. We know intimately the wild crop of rumors that have been going around town for several weeks, in fact, we hear them practically as soon as they are heard around the Square, and they are so ridiculous that it affords us a little sport in what otherwise might be a dull day. They range from the news that the Brick Plant is broke, in the hands of receivers, has shut down and will never run again, up to the statement that a mythical group of stockholders has sprung up over night, discharged Mr. Green, Mr. Arthur, Mr. Brown and Mr. Schuessler, and installed an entirely new set of officers, in fact, the last rumor had Mr. Arthur's household goods packed in a car and well beyond Montgomery City going east, and Mr. Schuessler had sold his goods to get money to get out of town and was taking his family overland in a borrowed automobile. Some wielder of a wicked pen with a wild imagination could make a witty volume by collecting and publishing these rumors, and we have often thought of offering a prize to the best chair general who originates these stories for the most original ones.

We have nothing to conceal. Our business is open to the world, and if any one is interested in the progress of our affairs and will call any of the officers of the Brick Plant by phone, we shall be very glad, indeed, to tell them the exact conditions of what they are asking about. A number of our friends, however, especially the merchants who have felt the reduction in our Saturday payroll, have lately asked us what business conditions really are and what we expect of business in the near future. So I am glad to have this opportunity of telling them. Our business is in a perfectly normal, healthy condition in every way except that the world wide trade depression which started last October has affected the fire brick business like it has all other business, especially in the volume of sales.

As our income has been reduced, we of course, have had to curtail operations and, as good business men, see that our expenses were kept within our income. Last winter we ran both plants full until the first of March, thus giving our men steady employment through the winter months and putting a large stock of brick in storage on the yard at a very considerable investment of money. During this time a number of our competitors in St. Louis and North Missouri were shut down for periodsof weeks at a time. This spring when orders still were light, we began by dropping off a day or two a week at each plant until the early summer, when outside work became plentiful, we partially closed the West Plant. By bringing the men we needed from that plant to the East plant and increasing our operations here, we have kept our force intact. For the past two months we have been running five days per week, but have shut our East Plant down this week in order to make necessary and heavy repairs to our boiler plant. Next week we will resume operation, but the following week it will be necessary to shut down another week in order to complete the boiler repairs which cannot be done in one week. We have picked this time to close the plant because it is in the midst of the harvest season and nearly all of our men can get employment in the harvest field. For the remainder of August we expect to run full and will continue to do so throughout the balance of the year unless business should fall off to such an extent that it would be advisable to shut down a part of each month. If it is necessary to do so, we certainly will because we have our business well in hand and know the conditions several weeks in advance.

However, we believe the low point has been reached, and while we do not look for material betterment during the remainder of the year, we would not be surprised at a gradual Mont, after an extended visit home.

WOULD HAVE
SCHOOL DISTRICTS
CONTINUE BUILDING

JEFFERSON CITY, July 14.—A bill was introduced in the house yesterday by Representative Hale of New Madrid County to permit school districts of the state to continue their building programs which have been suspended by the referendum of the county unit bill.

The measure would permit districts to levy taxes, as before, to pay school bonds. Under the county unit bill districts could not issue bonds after last March.

Investors since have refused to buy district bonds because of the uncertainty of the outcome of the referendum on the county unit bill at the election in November 1922.

The bill is said to have the general approval of rural school districts.

improvement. Our payroll has fallen from \$60,000 per month to about \$20,000 per month, at about which figure we expect it will run the balance of the year. Based on the way fundamental conditions affecting industry are worked out and solved between now and the first of the year will depend business for 1922. By fundamental conditions I mean commodity prices, retail prices, labor wages, freight rates. Government taxes, the tariff, foreign export and exchange, all of which will have to be put on a satisfactory basis to the American people before there will be a general revival in trade. Steady progress is being made in all of these lines, but such movements take months to culminate so we don't see where there can be much revival of trade before Spring at least, unless some unforeseen circumstance should arise that would start business off with a boom.

Our men are fully informed of the conditions of our business, they know just how we are running and what our plans are for the future, and are satisfied. We have always felt that we have a moral responsibility to take care of our men, and expect to keep them in employment so that no one of them will be in want or suffering. We have been getting our share of orders and more, and have been running considerably more than our competitors. Instead of shutting down indefinitely as other plants in St. Louis and North Missouri have done, which by the way is the more economical way to do from a money standpoint, we are giving our men employment part time through the month or enough to pay their ordinary living expenses. We have naturally gone over our organization and cut out everything in the way of a luxury, and months ago put our business in order for the slack times that we knew were on the way. Doubtless it will be a blessing in disguise to industry as well as people to get down on an economical basis again and cut out wartime extravagance. When business does improve we expect several years of normal, healthy prosperity, and in the meantime we are repairing and extending our plants, and keeping our organization together so that we will be ready to run full when business revives.

We cannot, of course, nor do we attempt, to control or combat the idle gossip around town, but it is a deplorable thing when the newspapers and newspaper correspondents publish locally and send as news items to the Metropolitan journals articles of this nature based on rumors and without investigation. Of course, our business is far removed from Missouri and it doesn't hurt us so much as we think it gives Mexico and the community a black eye to be spreading this information broadcast without any foundation of truth.

In conclusion we wish to invite the newspapers or the citizens of Mexico who are interested in our affairs at any time to either call at our office or telephone us for any information they want, and it will be promptly and cheerfully given.

Yours very truly,

A. P. GREEN,

President A. P. Green Fire Brick Co.

Mr. Coontz, editor of the Intelligencer, has asked us to state:

"The news article referred to above in Monday's Intelligencer was based wholly upon dispatches carried in Sunday's St. Louis Globe Democrat, Star and Post Dispatch which the Intelligencer had every reason to believe verified."

JOHN LEO COONTZ,

Editor of the Intelligencer.

Gip Mildred has gone to Bozeman, would not be surprised at a gradual Mont, after an extended visit home.

Need For Grain Grows

Due to the drouth and great heat throughout the world a material change has been brought about which has resulted in a materially increased demand for grain which can only be met through Europe being able to trade with the United States.

Famine is said to be stalking in Russia and other countries are severely hit because of crop failures. The new tariff is said to be one of the obstacles which intervene in the matter of trade between this and the countries hardest hit.

Were trading opportunities unhampered there would be a decided improvement in price of grain here due to an enlarged demand for the farmer's products. Such an arrangement would also materially aid in protecting Europe from further financial reverses whose effects will be felt in this country.

L. Mitchell White

START WORK OF
ELIMINATING
AUXVASSE HILL

The work of eliminating the Auxvasse hill began Wednesday and will be completed, according to contract, within four months from date.

The contract made with the builders of the mile of road—one half mile each side of the Auxvasse on the Fulton-Mexico road—calls for the completion of the work within four months from the date set to start work and that date is Wednesday, July 20.

Already some of the equipment is on the ground for starting this work and the contractors have advised County Surveyor Perry Divers that they will be ready to start on the appointed day.

The contract calls for the completion of the new bridge within three months, thus giving the road makers a month in which to build the approach and hard surface it. The contractor receiving the bridge work has sub let a part of the work and both firms are preparing to push their work. John L. Moss, of Clayton, Mo., received the contract. He now has his camp at Auxvasse and moved to the scene of action Tuesday.

Mexico couple
Were Married
on Wednesday

Miss Marie Wales, one of Mexico's talented young ladies was united in marriage to W. F. Muir by Rev. F. W. Emerson at the Christian parsonage at 10 a. m., Wednesday morning in the presence of immediate relatives.

Mrs. Muir is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Wales and is well known here where she attended the public schools and has a host of friends. She is one of the city's very attractive and much admired young ladies.

Mr. Muir, who enjoys a splendid reputation as a carpenter, has taken his bride for a short honeymoon after which they will make their home in Mexico.

The Ledger joins the many friends of this couple in wishing them much success and happiness.

Mexico Did Not Apply?

Dispatches from Jefferson City indicate that Mexico was not among those who made final application for the State Home For Dependents.

It has been discussed somewhat here, but no substantial offer of site or money was made.

FORMER RESIDENT DIES
IN GRANVILLE, ILL.

Mrs. Zedra Bowman formerly of this city died suddenly at the home of her nephew, Ralph Martin in Granville, Ill., at 1:30 p. m., Tuesday.

She was a native of this section and was raised on the old Pearson farm near Mexico. Funeral arrangements have not been announced.

The Ledger joins friends in extending sincere sympathy to the bereaved family and relatives.

Would Get Wife Deserter.

Sheriff Blum left for St. Louis Wednesday to bring back Edgar Parker, who has been charged with wife desertion. His wife, Mrs. Mandie Parker is the mother of two children.

The Savings Bank Burglar alarm went off about 1:30 a. m., Wednesday because the safety catch had not been set when the bank closed.

JAKE REED
TO WRESTLE
HERE JULY 28

The date of the Reed-Wheat wrestling match, the biggest event of its kind that has been staged in Mexico for some time, was announced Wednesday as June 28. The match will be held at the M. M. Athletic Field under the auspices of the American Legion.

Jake Reed, who threw Pat Conley two straight during the M. D. A. Convention, has now taken on a more formidable opponent in Carl Wheat, champion of the state of Kansas.

Wheat has not had his back on the mat for three years and claims that he can throw Reed without doubt. The contest is already exciting wide interest.

The Legion is making plans to erect a platform in front of the grandstand on the athletic field, where the wrestlers will meet. The match will be staged at 8 p. m.

Baptists to
Hold County
Conference

Plans are being rapidly completed for the Audrain Baptist Association Sunday School Conference which will be held at Bethlehem Church on July 31st.

Delegates and visitors from all over the county are expected to be present and some good speakers are assured. A large delegation of Mexico people will be present.

Several churches from outside the county have already sent word that they would send representatives, so the meeting is expected to be a large one.

Following is the program that has been arranged:

11:00—Song Service and Devotional, Rev. S. S. Hagerman.

11:15—Teaching the Lesson, (a) Is it advisable for the teacher to lecture to the Class, Mr. John Turner, Centralia, Mo.

(b) Shall the Teacher use the Quarterly in the Class, Mrs. Ben Morris.

Discussed by all teachers present.

12:00—Dismissal, Dinner.

2:00—Song and Praise Service, Rev. John E. Turner, Mexico, Mo.

2:30—The Organized Class in the Rural Sunday School, Mr. Edgar Berrey, New Hope Church.

2:45—The Teachers Training Class in the Rural Sunday School, Mr. J. J. Johnston, Laddonia, Mo.

3:00—Duet, Misses Edwards, Centralia, Mo.

3:15—The Teachers Preparation of the Lesson, Rev. William Attey.

3:45—Praising the Sunday School out of the Rut, C. W. Settle.

4:00—Summary, Rev. W. A. Simmons, Centralia, Mo.

C. and A. Issues Age Order.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., July 20.—

Applications for employment being greater than for many years, the Chicago & Alton issued new age restriction orders. No one is to be given employment if more than 45 years or less than 21. In former years the age limit was 50. This was waived during the war.

Fulton Fire Brick Plant May Close

Unless more orders are received by the Fulton Fire Brick Company this week, the factory probably will have to close down some time next week for a more or less indefinite period, it was said at the office of the company Tuesday morning.—Fulton Gazette.

Building New Residence.

R. H. Bown is building a handsome new residence just back of Dr. Harrison's home. The new place will be modern throughout. It fronts on Liberty street.

V. A. Lanham of Laddonia was in Mexico on business Friday.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE LEDGER

ORPHANS RETURN
TO ST. LOUIS AFTER
A FINE OUTING

Sixteen youngsters from the Baptist orphanage in St. Louis returned to their home in the city Thursday after the biggest two weeks of their lives on farms near Long Branch and Molino.

The kiddies looked lively and in the best of health as they climbed aboard the train and all of them took leave of the people who had been so kind to them with a tear—some of the good people who had kept them felt the same way.

These are the people who gave the youngsters the outing of their lives: Arthur Dowell, John Berry, Jessie Lipp, Ed Kirch, Dixie Towles, Ross Ewing, Mike Peck, Liz Callaway, Jim Crawford, Will Peck, Joe Waltz, J. D. Baker, J. L. Hawley and Chester Dowell.

MOBERLY MAYOR WOULD
TAKE SPEEDERS' LICENSE

In an effort to eliminate speeding in Moberly, Mayor A. C. Dingle has instructed the police department to spare no effort to bring speeders into court.

He has stated for the first offense there will be a light fine and the cost of the case. For the second offense he urges a heavy fine and for the third he threatens to take away the license of the car.

Fulton Jeweler Is Dead.

Milton E. Leavens, 55 years old, died Monday night at 8:15 o'clock at the Callaway County Hospital following a surgical operation for internal injuries received in an automobile accident on the way from Columbia to Fulton July 7.

He was a member of the Masonic lodge and has conducted a jewelry business there for many years.

Body of Colored Soldier to Arrive

A telegram from New York to Henry Johnson col., the father of Henry W. Johnson, stated that the body of his son would be shipped from Hoboken Wednesday. It is expected to arrive in Mexico Friday.

Johnson was the only Audrain colored soldier to die in the World War. He died of influenza in a French hospital.

John Wilburn, 70 years old, of Keokuk, Iowa, who was taken ill suddenly while visiting his daughter, Mrs. Dave Highbarger on South Olive street, died at 10:55 a. m. Friday.

Mr. Wilburn was a native of Audrain County, having been born here February 25, 1851, and resided in this vicinity until only 5 years ago when he removed to Keokuk, Iowa, with his wife, who survives him.

Special Sun. Features at Bean Creek.

There will be a special entertainment at the Bean Creek Sunday School at 3 p. m. Sunday. This is a part of the special programs furnished by the different classes weekly.

FULTON LEGION FAVORS
SOLDIER BONUS BILL

The members of the Kingdom Post of the American Legion who attended the special meeting recently to consider the issue to be voted upon at the special election August 2nd voiced the sentiment favoring the proposition.

Almost all the men present favored a state bonus and they decided to ask voters for their co-operation and support.

NEW ELECTION LAW.

According to the revision of a law passed by this special session of the Legislature, only 2 judges and 2 clerks will be required at the Special Election August 2nd. The law also provides that voting booths do not have to be used.

S. P. CUNNINGHAM,
County Clerk.

Dies in Milwaukee.

H. Morris, brother of Sam Morris, died in Milwaukee Friday, and Mr. Morris left Saturday to attend the funeral, which will be Sunday afternoon. This leaves Mr. Morris as the only remaining member of the family left.

The Ledger joins in extending deepest sympathy.

Building New Residence.

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HYDE'S TAX
PLAN UPHELD
BY 74-29 VOTE

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., July 15.—By a vote of 74 to 29 the House yesterday upheld Gov. Hyde's tax reduction program as outlined in his recent special message.

The House rejected a proposition by O. B. Whitaker of Hickory County to reduce the state revenue tax levy from 10 cents to 6 cents and that there be no reduction upon the income, corporation franchise and inheritance taxes.

Gov. Hyde's program includes the reduction of the state tax levy from 10 cents to 8 cents; the corporation tax from \$1 per thousand capital and surplus to 50 cents; the income tax from 1½ per cent to 1 per cent; the blind tax from 2 to 1 cent; the capital bond tax from 2 cents to 1 cent and the abolition of the tax of six-tenths of cent upon school certificates of indebtedness for two years. This will reduce taxes about \$4,500,000 annually.

STATE ROAD
MAP CHANGED
AGAINST US

JEFFERSON CITY, July 15.—A number of changes have been made by the State Highway commission on the state road system in many parts. New routes have been selected and additional routes provided as a result of the personal interest shown before the commission by representatives of counties and highways. None of the changes made touch Audrain county.

However a change which has been made in the arrangement of the so-called "air-line" route across the state have been made and in them Audrain county is entirely left out. This change has to do with the Golden Belt route, which passes through Audrain as does the old State highway.

One of the principal changes is the designation of a new state road thru Saline, Lafayette and Jackson counties, which will provide an "air line" route from Kansas City to St. Louis. It is the shortest way between the two cities.

From Glasgow, on the north bank of the Missouri River in Howard County, the new state road follows the Old Trails route through Gilliam and Slater to Marshall. From there the Golden Belt road is followed, passing through Higginsville and Oak Grove into Kansas City. This road has been sought by Lafayette County farmers and business men to furnish a main artery through the south central part of the county. The Old Trails road through Lexington remains a part of the state system.

Representative Hains of Saline County, said that money will be available to build a bridge across the Missouri River at Glasgow.

East of Glasgow, the proposed "air line" route follows the Old Trails road to St. Louis. That part of the road is north of the Missouri River.

Service Men
Boost Pending
Bonus Measure

Ex-service men in Audrain County are taking an active interest in the coming special election August 2, at which time the question of a soldier bonus will be voted upon.

Because of the desire of Congress to leave action to the states, ex-service men are anxious to have Missouri take action similar to that as so many others have done and vote a bonus of \$10 for each month a man spent in service.

In every state where the question has come to the vote of the people it has passed, the average vote being about 3 to 1.

RURAL LETTER CARRIERS
MET IN LADDONIA, MO., TO
ELECT STATE DELEGATE

The Audrain Rural Letter Carriers Association met in Laddonia Saturday afternoon for the purpose of electing a delegate to the state convention. Martinsburg, Molino, Vandalia, Laddonia and Mexico were represented.

Joseph Aderton of Vandalia was chosen delegate to the convention.

J. A. Powell and family, of Humboldt, Kan., are here at the bedside of A. C. Powell, who has been seriously ill.

UNUSUAL HOT
WAVE OVER
ENTIRE NATION

The people in Audrain county are not the only ones who have been suffering from extreme heat this past few weeks. The condition is both world wide. The extreme heat in the northern part of this country is said to be killing the fishes in the lakes, while reports from Switzerland state the heat there has started unusual movements in the glaciers which threaten the lives of tourists.

T. J. J. See, U. S. astronomer, says the present heat downpour is due to meteors on the sun. In Lake Michigan sea gulls are reported to be seeking relief from the excessive temperature by migrating to the center of the lake. Unlike June 1921 June 1903 was the coolest in years in Audrain and for 21 days during that month the highest temperature was 70 degrees. Thursday was cooler here because of heavy rains at Moberly and also a light rain south of Mexico in Callaway county. In England there has been no rain fall for practically three months.

One of the warmest July's in the history of Audrain county was that of 1901 with an average of 87 degrees for the month. The average rainfall for July in Mexico for 25 years was 4.19 inches. The greatest July precipitation on record for the county was 9.05 inches in 1892 and the smallest was 0.03 of an inch in July 1886.

The average number of clear days for July in Audrain is 15. The prevailing winds for this month have been for the most part from the southwest.

Mrs. W. J. Mason
Dies at Her
Home Tuesday

Mrs. William J. Mason, 70 years old died at her home at 1020 North Jefferson street at 9:25 a. m., Tuesday after an illness of about two years. She was one of the finest and most beloved women of the community.

Mrs. Clara Cunningham Mason was born April 8, 1851, in Boone County, Missouri, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott P. Cunningham. She was married January 21, 1873 to William J. Mason. She is survived by four children and six grand children. The sons and daughters are: Elmer J. Mason of Pittsburg, Penn.; Mrs. Will H. Morris of Stockton, California; Ralph H. Mason of Fayetteville, Arkansas; and Ruth Mason of Oakland, California.

Three brothers who survive are: Elmer Cunningham, Earl Cunningham of Mexico, and Emmett Cunningham of Wellsville.

Mrs. Mason has been a resident of Audrain county since early childhood. She was educated at Christian College, Columbia, Mo. She was a lovely Christian character, who put her home and family uppermost in her life. She will be sincerely mourned by all who knew and loved her.

The Ledger joins in extending sincere sympathy.

The funeral services of Mrs. William J. Mason, who died Tuesday morning, will be held from the Christian Church at 10 a. m., Thursday, Rev. F. W. Emerson officiating. Burial will be made in Elmwood.

The pall bearers will be: J. W. Dry, Frank Bickley, Will Wilkins, J. W. Plunkett, James Mundy and T. A. Threlkeld.

Ralph H. Mason of Fayetteville, Ark., Elliott Mason of Pittsburg, Pa., and Miss Ruth Mason of Oakland, Cal., are here for the funeral.

Rev. H. E. Gibbs, of Bardsville, Okla., is the guest of his brother, the Rev. E. S. Gibbs, of this city. They motored to Minneapolis to visit their other brother, E. T. Gibbs.

Wilsey Johnson had the misfortune to sprain his leg while at work on his farm Saturday. He will be obliged to use a cane for some time.

Sunday's temperature was 101, as reported by the official observer, a new record for the summer.

Wallace Fry has sufficiently recovered from his recent operation to be taken home Wednesday from the hospital.

L. C. Gove is here on business. He reports Mrs. Gove and the other members of his charming family as all well.